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Grace before Meat

or The friendly meal

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by Lady Poynter

PRICE ONE SHILLING

Grace before Meat

Lady Poynter

IN these self-conscious days Grace before meat is sometimes omitted.

But the Grace can be in the meal.

We may live without friends; we may live without books; but civilised men cannot live without cooks.

We may agree to "let good digestion wait on appetite." But speed and strain to-day make appetite a Tricksey Jade who needs to be tempted before she will grace our meals.

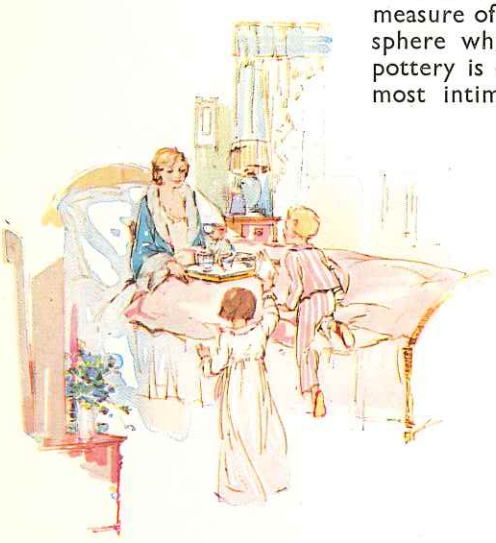
We can woo her!

She is very susceptible to China.

A delicious early morning cup of tea in cheery China can send us singing to the day. Breakfast—with sunny colours of cup and plate, fresh flowers and fruit; Tea—that precious English hour of refreshment—all meals can be made or marred by our Tableware.

Dinner; a shaded lamp throwing a halo around flowers and faces smiling above beautiful Tableware, helps us to arise refreshed in mind and body with the thought "Fate cannot harm me: I have dined to-day."

A woman sets her stamp upon her home, and the measure of her success is her ability to create an atmosphere which distinguishes it from other homes. Her pottery is one of her most effective allies, for it is the most intimate and the most frequently used of her possessions.



Therefore when invited to the Royal Doulton Potteries, I started off with the thrill of anticipation.

I was not disappointed.

Poems in Pottery

Through the lofty Doulton Showroom I wandered (following in the recent steps of H.R.H. Prince George), standing in admiration before great vases and jars of the famous "Sang de Bœuf" and modern examples of "Chang" and "Sung": dazzled by the intricacies of wonderful "Place Plates" as they call them in America; warmed by the glowing red of the unapproachable "Rouge Flambé"; I was conscious of great pleasure.

These were exhibition pieces, fit for museums, or for the tables of millionaires!

But a surprise awaited me.

I found that the renowned artists and craftsmen who give to the world priceless pieces of Royal Doulton, had also prepared sets of charming tableware, tea sets, dinner sets, dessert sets, coffee sets—things of everyday use which would delight every woman (who is always a hostess at heart) at prices no higher than mediocre ware.

When I learned the prices at which this pottery is sold, it seemed to me a pity that any woman should ever purchase undistinguished tableware, costing as much, or more, than such beauty as this.

If you are thinking of new tableware, or gifts for a friend, will you pause long enough to look at the photographs actually taken in natural colours, which I have so enjoyed arranging for this little book, before you rashly decide on something just because it is cheap?

It may be equally as cheap and ever so much nicer to buy a Doulton set.

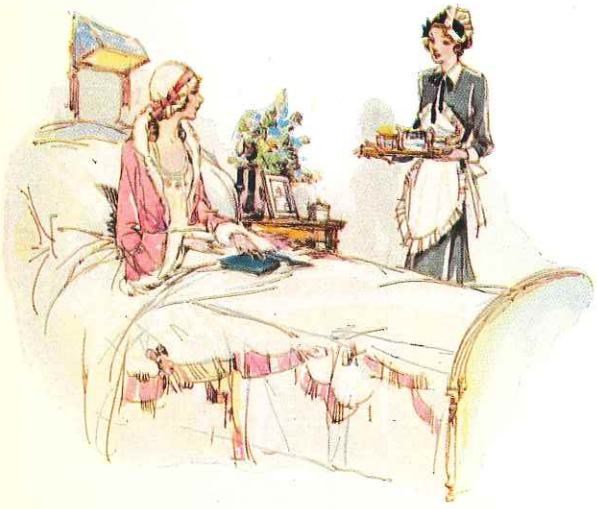
"Arvon" design.

"Sheraton" design

MEMORABLE MEALS

Our memories are woven into distinct patterns by pottery. I remember my keen disappointment as a child, when at nursery tea I did not get the Doulton cup with the golden rose in the bottom.

Who does not know the depressing effect of undistinguished china, a chipped plate, or a cracked cup, upon an already jaded mind? One's favourite food loses half its savour on ugly plates.



On the other hand, if we sit down to the most simple little repast served on dainty china, in company with a bowl of fresh flowers, we rise with a sense of mental refreshment.

A daintily set table with gay, fresh-looking pottery goes further than any cocktail to awaken that pleasurable anticipation of the meal we need.

Let me now describe my efforts at suggesting desirable settings for different meals.

"Eden" design

EARLY TEA

The blue and white colouring of "Arvon" made it especially suitable for early morning tea when everything should be very fresh and bright looking.

But it is one of those accommodating sets which have a variety of articles for many occasions. *See page Three*

Here we set it out without a cloth—early morning cloths have such a capacity for getting dripped upon.

One would really have to get up to look at it !

BREAKFAST

For Breakfast the " Sheraton " is a particularly useful set, known as a " long set " : that is to say, there are shapes and sizes to meet every demand, for every item of all meals which is a great convenience.

" Eden " is another breakfast set with modern tendencies, agreeable colouring and particularly happy shapes. The formal little tree and garden effects suggest a Spring morning in Paradise.

" Rosslyn " design

LUNCHEON

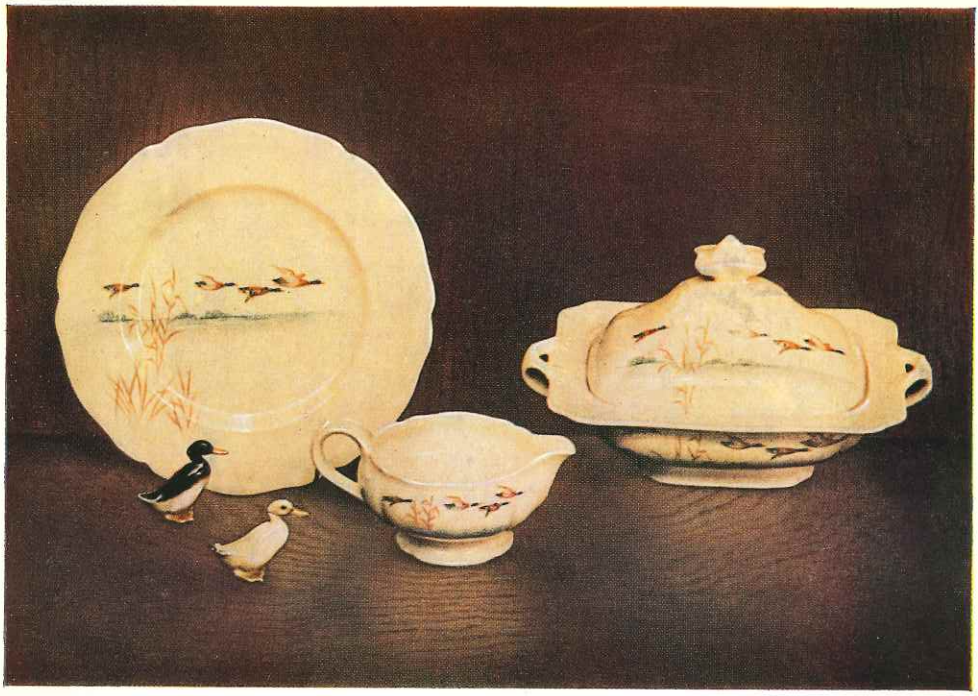
Lunch being more especially a women's meal, Doulton " Rosslyn " was chosen.

In this design the artist has taken sprays of roses in pink and red for his inspiration, and with admirable restraint has strewn them upon the delicate ivory surface.

Pale pink linen mats with a bowl of pink and red roses keep the whole thing in the key of the dainty colours of the pretty dresses to be grouped round the table.

It is very usual nowadays to serve only barley water or lemonade at lunch, so the table was set with goblets of brightly coloured glass. It is of course quite permissible to put down a wine glass, if white wine is offered or taken.

" Rosslyn " was selected for lunch on account of its romantic decoration. It would look equally well at dinner.



"Fenland" design

Another very lovely service is the " Fenland " with its beautifully drawn and coloured representation of wild ducks in flight across the marshes—a theme especially attractive to lovers of sports.

" Fenland " is a quite original idea in decoration and so true to nature are the wild duck (or drakes) poised in flight, that each piece is a joy—inviting close study. Nor is " Fenland " anything but modest in cost.

Here is a poem in fine pottery, something new and modern for either Luncheon or Dinner.

FENLAND
for
LUNCHEON
or
DINNER

GRACE BE

Dinner

I chose the Doulton "Dubarry" for my dinner table, because its deep cream ground and simple well-defined pattern of green semi-circles and coral flower make it particularly easy and effective in harmonising with flowers, fruit and other decorative details.

The interesting modern shapes of "Du
pattern glass would go well with it, and
look equally well if plain or one of the

The very narrow table runner of coral
Cromwell candles in leaf green are ve
and peppers in silver, and a modern de
knives were used, with coral tinted da

Dishes of red and green sweets com
Alternatively, a Doulton pottery bowl

This "Dubarry" design is also made in c
It looks parti

FORE MEAT

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This is "Dubarry" with green motif

barry" suggested that a very simple straight line
though I used beautiful cut glass, the table would
many coloured glasses are used.

brocade gives value to the coral flower, and the
ry much in the present fashion. Individual salts
sign of spoons and forks with new shaped curved
hlias as the centre of interest.

plete a very simple and effective arrangement.
of fruit might replace the flowers.

ainty Tea Sets for early morning, or afternoon Tea
icularly well in a Coffee Set.

Fine China Coffee Set

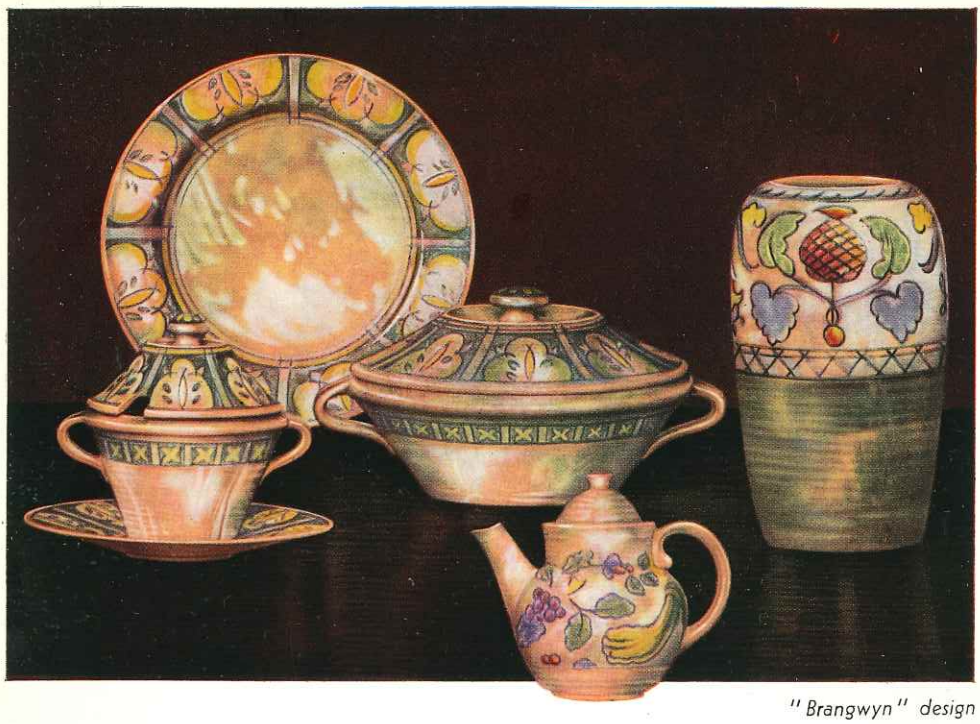
" Sylvan " design

TEA For tea, Doulton translucent china is usually preferred to other pottery for its additional thinness and delicacy. The china tea set illustrated in colours is worth a special mention, both for the elegance of its shapes and for the clearness and beauty of its colouring.

It is called " Sylvan," and the flowers in the design are a poetic rendering of the Geum.

There is a glorious array of Doulton Tea Services in exquisite modern designs and colourings, so that one can unerringly choose a set to harmonise with one's decorations and furnishings.

The cups and saucers of several new designs I admired, are shown on *page fourteen.*



"Brangwyn" design

"BRANGWYN"

Mention must be made of the extraordinarily beautiful "Brangwyn" set with its almost moresque forms and subdued greens and blues which harmonise quite perfectly with oak and particularly with Tudor furniture.

It was designed by the famous Royal Academician FRANK BRANGWYN, whose mastery of colour and design is of international renown.

The motif is "Harvest," and there are Dinner, Luncheon, Tea and occasional sets, together with lovely Vases, Jars, Bowls, and single decorative pieces, which make "Brangwyn" attractive for all who appreciate the ideal combination of genius with utility.

Nor is it expensive.

Decorative pieces of "Brangwyn"

" Woburn " design

DESSERT

Dessert is the time when the decorator of china feels entitled to abandon a little of that self-restraint which distinguished his successful designs in the ordinary way. Since all conflicting interest has been cleared from the table it is desirable to introduce a note of strong colour. The plates with powder green rims and delicate sprays of apple blossom of the Doulton "Woburn" make an excellent foil for the glowing colours of the fruits, and the green candles were purposely used again.

Royal Doulton Figure "Phyllis"

AN ORIGINAL IDEA

Flowers are sometimes expensive to buy and they have been known to die. The effect of placing a lovely Doulton figure, in rich glowing colours which blended admirably with the tones of the fruit as well as the other china, was most pleasing as well as striking a newer note in table decoration. It suggests that a wedding present of a pair of Doulton figures might be put to a more practical daily use than simply to remain immured in a cabinet or on a shelf for the rest of their colourful lives.

Royal Doulton Coffee Set

COFFEE

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Some of the Doulton figures are made up into lamps, which add considerable charm to a coffee table as witness the little " Pantalette " lady who sheds her radiance on the green and gold coffee set, or the smiling little damsel who presides so prettily over the tea table shown on page ten.

After Dinner Coffee is often the crowning of a successful meal. The Doulton Coffee Set I chose in lovely green and real gold seems to enhance the aroma and flavour of the freshly ground berries.

The tiny lady of the lamp gives added sparkle to the scene and such a finale might make even a politician wise.

Coffee Sets can be had in many colours, green and gold, blue and gold, maroon and gold — and the shapes are as nearly perfect in form as human skill can devise.

Many Doulton figures match the colourings of the china.

New Doulton Tea designs

GRACE BEFORE MEAT

Every woman is at heart a hostess. She looks her best at the head of her own table, whether entertaining a congenial company, or presiding over the family meal ; giving a sympathetic ear to the recital of the children's doings, or that understanding smile which clears the business frown from the brow of the head of the house.

It may be in that happiest of all parties—" le dîner à deux," even if the diners be " Darby and Joan." If she be indeed a new bride, what a flutter and what a thrill !

However simple the meal, it must be well cooked and above all attractively served. There is no more important consideration than the choice of the china or pottery.

On this depends everything else. Flowers, mats or tablecloth, candles, sweets, fruit, etc., should all be chosen to harmonise with the decoration of the table ware.

Designs illustrated above are:—
Top "TIVOLI" "EVELYN"
Centre "EDEN"
Bottom "VALERY" "MERYON"

This is "GEISHA" design

"Syren" design

SYREN AND MECCA

To grace a Bridge Party, as a Sandwich Set for picnic meals, or for that matter any meal, I admire the new Doulton designs of "Syren" and "Mecca." They are so new and rich in vivid colours, so quaint and likeable in shape.

I chose five pieces from a Coffee Set to illustrate "SYREN" including the jug for hot milk. "MECCA" is represented by five pieces from a Tea Set.

"Mecca" design.

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"Chloe"

"Paisley Shawl"

"Monica"

"Bridesmaid"

Four of the famous Royal Doulton Figures

EPILOGUE

The few Doulton designs I have described are by no means all the best, but they appealed to me as being usable and very inexpensive.

How beautiful the Doulton things are and how far they go towards making your home a place of harmony !

How well worth while it is to see them before you select your new dinner or tea service, or before choosing a wedding present for the next young couple.

Such happy adventurers will be grateful for your discrimination. "It is Royal Doulton" means an extra pride in possessing something good, without the uncomfortable reproach of extravagance.

Ask then to see Royal Doulton.

The Royal Doulton Figures are so popular for Xmas, Birthday and Wedding Gifts

The Royal Doulton Potteries

DOULTON & Co LTD.

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